

Executive Summary - A Study on Energy Pipeline Infrastructure and Research

A Steering Committee¹ on Energy Pipeline Infrastructure and Research has been formed to:

- Identify and assess the technical, economic and policy challenges that define the environment in which energy pipelines operate;
- Assess the role that research and development will be required to play in addressing those challenges; and,
- Outline in a final report the actions that will be necessary to enable and sustain the role of research and development in addressing the challenges.

Steering Committee members and their organizations will use the report as a common ground for discussions with key decision makers on actions required to support collaborative research and development for energy pipeline infrastructure.

Steering Committee members and their representatives will participate in meetings, such as the Pipeline Research Forum, to draw upon the perspectives of leaders within the research community that serves the energy pipeline infrastructure. Our intent is that the shared learnings of this Forum and similar meetings will enrich the content of the Report.

The Steering Committee has worked collaboratively to identify the following eight energy pipeline challenges:

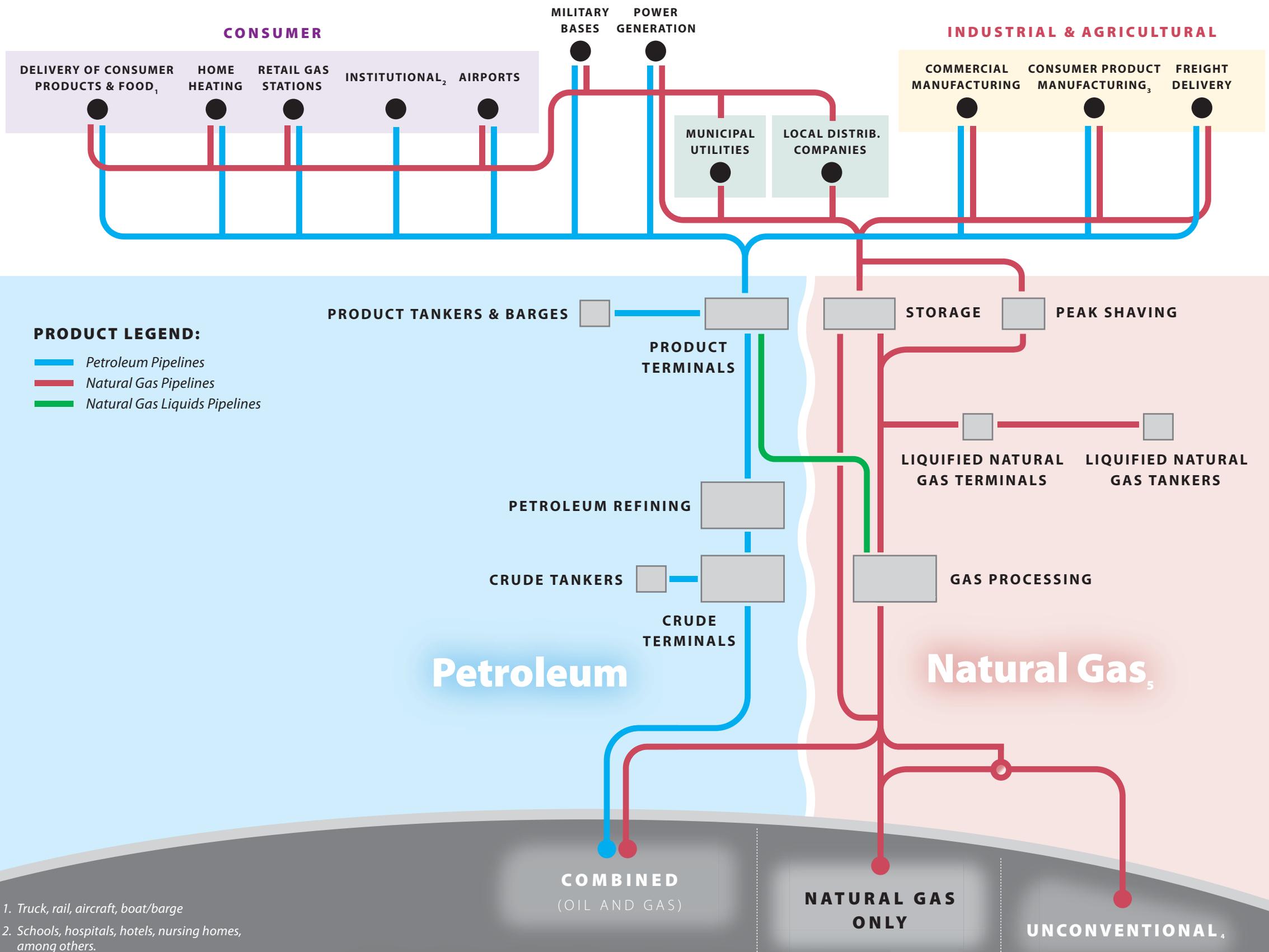
1. Assuring the reliability of the Nation's pipeline assets
2. Continuing to reduce risks by and to pipelines and their surrounding communities
3. Understanding changing supply, demand and end use impacts
4. Anticipating change and adapting existing infrastructure or building new infrastructure where and when it is needed
5. Achieving improved performance
6. Ensuring effective regulation and oversight
7. Developing a rationale for integration of conflicting public policies and regulations
8. Creating an environment in which energy pipelines can fulfill their role

These challenges serve as a foundation for a "Call to Action" to senior decision makers in the federal government and industry to support needed collaborative research and development. The Steering Committee will complete its work by developing a framework for collaborative research.

¹ The Steering Committee is comprised of the following: Industry – The American Gas Association, the Association of Oil Pipelines, the American Petroleum Institute; and the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, Government – the U.S. Departments of Transportation and Energy; Research Organizations – the Northeast Gas Association/NYSEARCH, and Pipeline Research Council International.

Energy Pipelines

The Conduit From Production to End-Use



1. Truck, rail, aircraft, boat/barge
2. Schools, hospitals, hotels, nursing homes, among others.
3. To provide process heating, transportation and manufacturing feed stocks
4. Includes coal seam, tar sands, among others.
5. As indicated by the relative size of the shaded areas, approximately twice the amount of petroleum products are consumed as compared to natural gas on an equivalent basis.

Worldwide Production Basins

Regulation and Oversight of Energy Pipelines

